SPECIFICATION

In the Specification

A marked-up copy of the change to the selected paragraphs are provided below. Please enter these changes to the specification in the record.

Please **AMEND** the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 11 as follows:

In a first aspect of the invention, a multiple stage pump includes a first and second stage pump and at least one valve downstream~~upstream~~ from the first pump and the second pump in the first stage and the second stage. A common branch line connects the first stage and the second stage to a common hydraulic system, and a valve system is associated with the common branch line downstream~~upstream~~ from the connection of the first stage and the second stage. In embodiments of the first aspect of the present invention, the valves include a first valve downstream~~upstream~~ of the first pump in the first stage and a second valve downstream~~upstream~~ of the second pump in the second stage. Additional valves may also be including in each of the stages or, optionally, in the common branch line.

Please **AMEND** the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20 as follows:

In a second aspect of the present invention, the multiple stage pump includes at least two pumps and at least two valve means for regulating fluid from the at least two pumps. The at least two valve means are downstream~~upstream~~ from the at least two pumps in a respectively same line as the at least two pumps. In embodiments, a merged line is downstream~~upstream~~ from the at least two valve means which may be, for example, control valves, flow valves, on/off valves, pressure regulated valves, pressure relief valves and the like.

Please **AMEND** the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 10 as follows:

Referring now to Figure 2, a first embodiment of the multiple stage pump is provided. In this embodiment, the multiple stage pump is generally depicted as reference numeral 20 and includes pumps 22a and 22b located on respective branches 24a and 24b of the multiple stage pump system 20 of the present invention. The pumps 22a, 22b are preferably arranged in parallel, and may be associated with respective valve and reservoir systems 26a, 26b. In embodiments, the valve and reservoir systems 26a, 26b may include a single reservoir or, alternatively, may be eliminated without unduly affecting the control of the present invention. Pressure control valves 28a, 28b (with respective reservoirs "R" or, in embodiments, the same reservoir) are positioned downstream~~upstream~~ of the respective pumps 22a, 22b, associated with each respective branch 24a, 24b of the multiple stage pump system 20. The pressure control valves, in alternative embodiments, may be substituted with flow valves, on/off valves, or other pressure or relief control valves or a combination thereof. It should be noted that the control valves do not appear to be as sensitive to cold start behavior as the on/off valves.

Please **AMEND** the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 23 as follows:

Still referring to Figure 2, check valves 30a and 30b are located downstream~~upstream~~ of the control valves ~~22a, 22b~~28a, 28b on each respective branch 24a, 24b. A node 32, positioned between the respective check valves 30a, 32b, merges the branches 24a, 24b into a single or common branch rail line 34. The common branch line 34 preferably provides working fluid to a fuel injector. A valve (pressure control valve) 38 with reservoir "R" may optionally be provided on a line 40, branching from the common branch rail line 34. The valve and reservoir system

may be a rail pressure regulator valve such as an Injection Pressure Regulator (IPR). The arrangement of Figure 2 reduces or eliminates pressure peaks throughout the multiple stage pump 20, and further reduces or eliminates injector to injector variation caused by the system.